

AMENDMENT

In the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 14 with the following amended paragraph:

The anode of the present invention may further comprise a fourth layer in contact with a surface of the third layer. A fourth layer may be desirable when the components of the third layer, which functions to stabilize or protect the anode active layer comprising lithium, may be unstable to components present in the electrolyte. This fourth layer should be conductive to lithium ions, preferably nonporous to prevent penetration by electrolyte solvents, compatible with electrolyte and the third layer, and a flexible enough to accommodate for volume changes in the layers occurring during discharge and charge. The fourth layer should further be insoluble in the electrolyte. As the fourth layer is not directly in contact with the lithium layer, compatibility with metallic lithium is not necessary. Examples of suitable fourth layers include, but are not limited to, organic or inorganic solid polymer electrolytes, electrically and ionically conducting polymers, and metals with certain lithium solubility properties. In one embodiment, the fourth layer comprises a polymer layer, wherein the fourth layer is in contact with the third layer on the side opposite to said second layer. In one embodiment, the polymer of the fourth layer is selected from the group consisting of electrically conductive polymers, ionically conductive polymers, sulfonated polymers, and hydrocarbon polymers. Further examples of suitable polymers for use in the fourth layer of the present invention are those described in ~~U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/399,967~~ U.S. Pat. No. 6,183,901 to Ying *et al.* of the common assignee for protective coating layers.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 17, line 23 with the following amended paragraph:

Also preferred for the polymer layers of the multi-layered structure of the present invention, are crosslinked polymer materials formed from the polymerization of monomers including, but are not limited to, alkyl acrylates, glycol acrylates, polyglycol acrylates,

polyglycol vinyl ethers, polyglycol divinyl ethers, and those described in ~~U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/399,967~~ U.S. Pat. No. 6,183,901 to Ying *et al.* of the common assignee for protective coating layers for separator layers. For Example, one such crosslinked polymer material is polydivinyl poly(ethylene glycol). The crosslinked polymer materials may further comprise salts, for example, lithium salts, to enhance ionic conductivity. In one embodiment, the polymer layer of the multi-layered structure comprises a crosslinked polymer.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 18, line 10 with the following amended paragraph:

Examples of suitable outer layers include, but are not limited to, organic or inorganic solid polymer electrolytes, electrically and ionically conducting polymers, and metals with certain lithium solubility properties. In one embodiment, the polymer of the outer layer is selected from the group consisting of electrically conductive polymers, ionically conductive polymers, sulfonated polymers, and hydrocarbon polymers. Further examples of suitable polymers for use in the outer layer of the present invention are those described in ~~U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/399,967~~ U.S. Pat. No. 6,183,901 to Ying *et al.* of the common assignee for protective coating layers of coated separators.